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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Helzerman et al.

Examiner: Meinecke Diaz, Susanna M

Serial Number: 09/543,227

Group Art Unit: 3623

Filed: 04/05/00

For: QUALITY OPERATING SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

The Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for a kind and thorough of the Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that an election/restriction is required. Applicants hereby elect Invention I as described in the Office Action and assert that claims 1 – 6 and new claims 21 - 27 read upon elected Invention I. The above election is made without waiving the right to file divisional applications based upon the unelected claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel unelected claims 7 - 20 and add the following new claims 21 - 27.

Claim 21 (new)

A method for developing and performing a manufacturing project comprising the steps

of:

providing a concept proposal based upon at least one predefined need and a review of technology capable of achieving said predefined need;

demonstrating that a technology is capable of providing said predefined need through a certain process;